

Foundations of Linguistics

Linguistics · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which subfield of linguistics is primarily concerned with the study of speech sounds?

- A) Syntax
- B) Phonetics**
- C) Semantics
- D) Pragmatics

2. In linguistics, what is the smallest unit of meaning in a language called?

- A) Phoneme
- B) Grapheme
- C) Morpheme**
- D) Syllable

3. Which branch of linguistics focuses on the rules governing the arrangement of words into phrases and sentences?

- A) Syntax**
- B) Morphology
- C) Phonology
- D) Lexicography

4. What term describes the study of how context influences the interpretation of meaning in communication?

- A) Semantics
- B) Etymology
- C) Pragmatics**
- D) Dialectology

5. Who is widely considered the father of modern linguistics and proposed the concept of Universal Grammar?

- A) Ferdinand de Saussure
- B) Noam Chomsky**
- C) Steven Pinker
- D) Edward Sapir

6. What is a 'phoneme' defined as in the study of linguistics?

- A) A written character
- B) The smallest unit of sound that distinguishes meaning**
- C) A grammatical category
- D) A type of regional accent

7. The study of the historical development of languages and their relationships is known as:

- A) Sociolinguistics
- B) Historical Linguistics**
- C) Psycholinguistics
- D) Applied Linguistics

8. Which term refers to the variety of a language that is characteristic of a particular group or region?

- A) Dialect**
- B) Register
- C) Jargon
- D) Slang

9. In semantics, what is the term for two words that have the same meaning?

- A) Antonyms
- B) Homonyms
- C) Synonyms**
- D) Polysemes

10. What does the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis suggest about the relationship between language and thought?

- A) Language is purely biological
- B) Language influences how its speakers perceive the world**
- C) Thought exists independently of language
- D) Grammar is identical across all cultures